

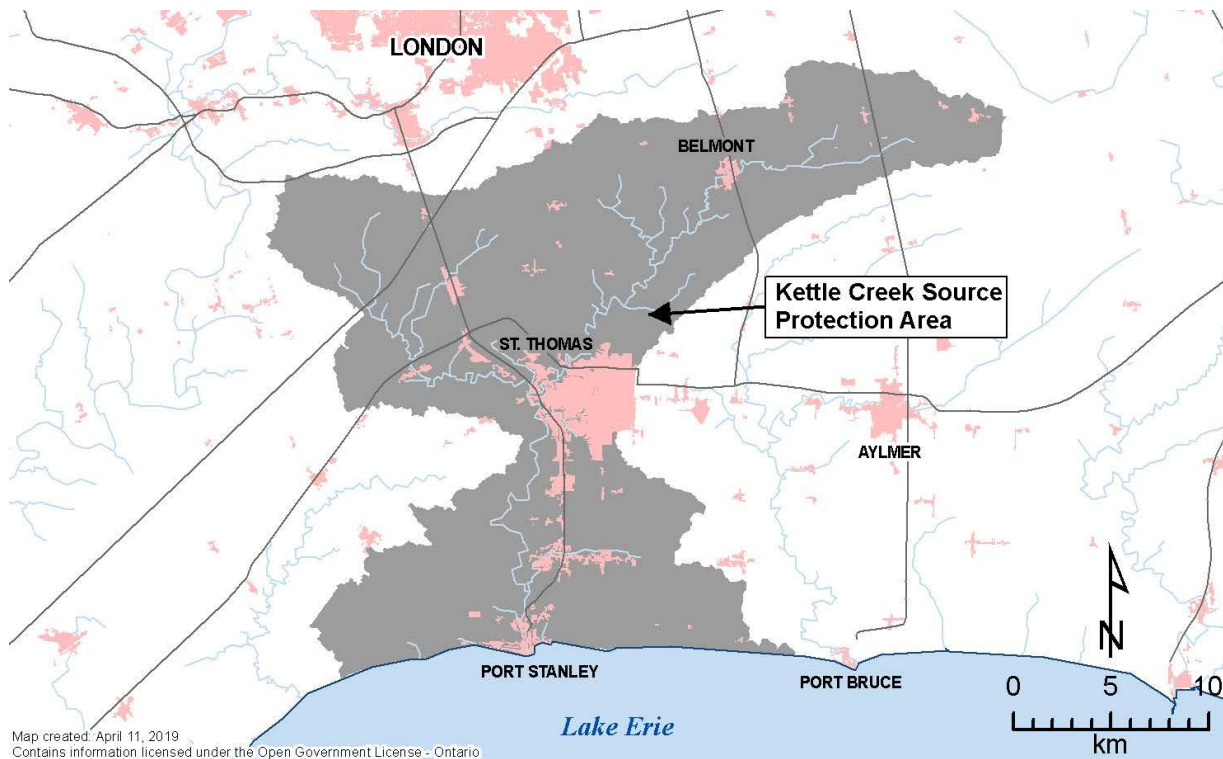
Kettle Creek Source Protection Area Annual Progress Report 2025

I. Introduction

This annual progress report outlines the progress made in implementing our Source Protection Plan for the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area, as required by the *Clean Water Act, 2006* and regulations.

The Source Protection Plan (the Plan) is the culmination of extensive science-based assessment, research, consultation, and collaboration with local stakeholders and the provincial government. When policies in the Plan are implemented, it ensures that activities carried out near municipal wells and surface water intakes will not pose significant risk to the sources of our drinking water.

We acknowledge and recognize the efforts made by our local municipalities, stakeholders, and Source Protection Committee in the development and implementation of the Plan.



Map 1 Kettle Creek Source Protection Area

II. A message from your local Source Protection Committee

P: Progressing Well / On Target – The majority of the Plan policies have been implemented and/or are progressing.

Each year, the Source Protection Committee considers information provided by policy implementors and rates the extent to which Source Protection Plan objectives are being achieved. A key component to the Committee's approach is that the overall rating for meeting Plan objectives is determined by the percentage of policies that are implemented or in-progress.

As of December 31, 2025, **100%** of legally binding Plan policies that address significant drinking water threats are either implemented or in-progress for the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area.

III. Our Watershed

The Kettle Creek Source Protection Area (watershed) includes Kettle Creek and its tributaries. The main branch of Kettle Creek originates at Lake Whittaker, an 11 hectare spring-fed kettle lake. The watershed is comprised of three subwatersheds: Dodd Creek, Upper Kettle Creek, and Lower Kettle Creek. These watercourses drain 520 square kilometres of agricultural and urban lands before entering Lake Erie at Port Stanley.

The Kettle Creek Source Protection Area includes the City of St. Thomas, the southern portions of Middlesex County (Township of Thames Centre and Townships of Middlesex Centre) and the City of London, and the central portion of Elgin County (Township of Southwold, Township of Malahide and Municipality of Central Elgin).

The watershed has two municipal drinking water systems: two wells in Belmont and the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply System in Port Stanley.

IV. At a Glance: Progress on Source Protection Plan Implementation

1. Source Protection Plan Policies and Addressing Significant Risks

P: Progressing Well / On Target

All legally binding Plan policies that address significant drinking water threats (100%) are implemented or in progress.

2. Municipal Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well / On Target

Three municipalities in the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area have vulnerable areas where significant drinking water threat policies apply: Township of Malahide, Municipality of Thames Centre, and Municipality of Central Elgin. Planning departments and building officials are screening applications for locations within vulnerable areas where threats to drinking water sources are possible and Plan policies may apply.

These municipalities are also required to review and update their Official Plan to ensure it conforms with the Source Protection Plan the next time they undertake an Official Plan review under the *Planning Act, 1990*. All three municipalities have confirmed that their Official Plans conform to the Source Protection Plan.

No further updates to Official Plans were required to conform to the Section 36 update to the Kettle Creek Source Protection Plan approved in 2024.

3. Septic Inspections

Not applicable to the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area. There are no on-site sewage systems requiring inspection.

4. Risk Management Plans

P: Progressing Well / On Target

There is one Risk Management Plan required within the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area for the handling and storage of fuel at the Elgin Area Primary Water Supply Treatment Plant (as required by policy PS-CW-7.1). Best management practices and risk management measures (e.g. a spills response plan) have been in place since the policy was adopted; however, administration of the formal Risk Management Plan agreement is yet to be completed.

No inspections were carried out or planned by a Risk Management Official or Inspector for prohibited or regulated activities in the 2025 annual reporting period.

5. Provincial Progress: Addressing Risks on the Ground

P: Progressing Well / On Target

There are no existing significant drinking water threats that require provincial approvals in the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area. Ontario ministries review applications for new provincial approvals (e.g. Environmental Compliance Approvals issued under the Environmental Protection Act) where they have been

identified as a tool in our Plan to address activities that pose a significant risk to source water.

The Province has established Standard Operating Policies to ensure that approvals take into account the science generated through the Drinking Water Source Protection Program and policies in the Source Protection Plan. Provincial approvals are issued, denied, amended, or revoked to conform to Plan policies. Where necessary, conditions are added to approvals to ensure that the activity does not pose a significant threat to sources of drinking water.

In 2025, there were no new prescribed instrument applications that required a detailed review for source protection in the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area.

6. Source Protection Awareness and Change in Behaviour

There have been no measurable or quantifiable outcomes reported for the 2025 annual reporting period.

7. Source Protection Plan Policies: Summary of Delays

Not applicable to the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area.

8. Source Water Quality: Monitoring and Actions

No issues have been identified in the local science-based assessment report regarding the quality of the sources of municipal drinking water in the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area.

9. Science-based Assessment Reports: Work Plans

No work plans were required to be implemented for the Kettle Creek Assessment Report for the 2025 annual reporting period.

10. More from the Watershed

To learn more about the Kettle Creek Source Protection Area, visit the [Lake Erie Source Protection website](#).